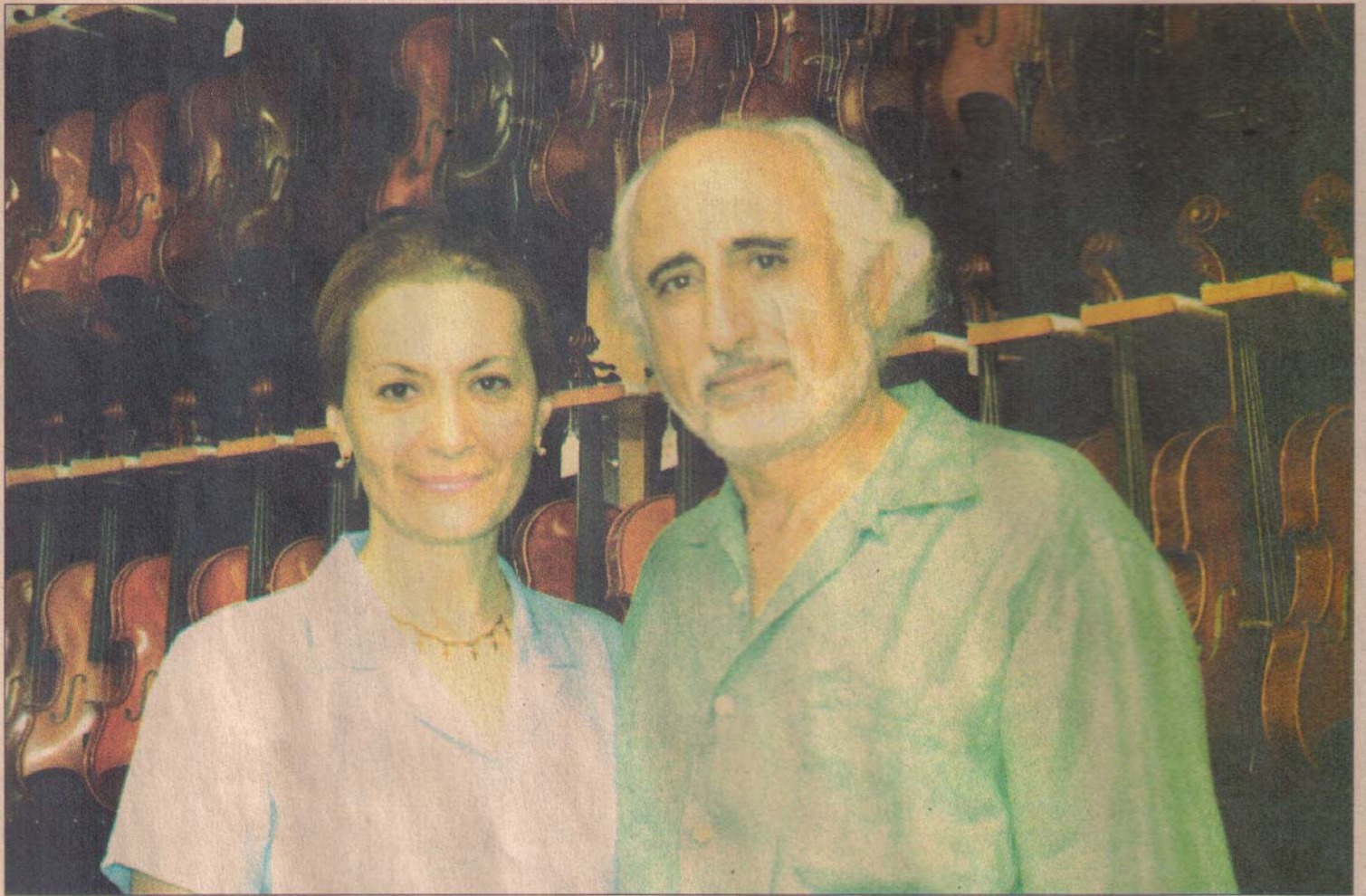


Driving dirge of development



Sebastian del Marmol

Marina and Manuel Berberian, owners of Allegro Music, say the store will likely have to relocate out of the Gables.

By Sebastian del Marmol

For almost 50 years, Allegro Music in Coral Gables – widely regarded as the region's premiere sheet music store – has been playing a game of musical chairs; moving to different locations throughout the city on four separate occasions while always managing to maintain a loyal base of customers.

And once again this year, the music is going to stop for Allegro. But this time, the beloved music store, which is a favorite of South Florida musicians, from concert pianists to amateur guitar players, might not find any place to sit.

Local music store another example of skyrocketing property values' toll on culture

The store's lease at 4537 Ponce de Leon Blvd. will expire next month. But while the current owner of Allegro Music, Manuel Berberian, is franti-

cally searching for a new address in Coral Gables, skyrocketing rental rates mean Allegro's chances of remaining in the city are fading rapidly.

"Our landlord already told us that the lease, which runs out next month, will not be extended," Berberian said. "I've been told a developer is going to build new condominiums on this entire block, and so we are forced to leave," he said.

Although Berberian said he hopes to make arrangements with the landlord to stay until the end of this year, afterward there is no chance of staying at the current address, across from the
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